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Cong. Hays Says 2 Men Told Him of Spy Plane

By ROBERT CRATER, Press Washington Writer

WASHINGTON — Cong. Wayne Hays (D., Ohio) said today that two men visited his office early last year and told him that a United States plane shot down over Russian Armenia was "not off course" but on a "spy mission."

Hays insisted that he was not sure that the men were Bernon F. Mitchell and William H. Martin, code clerks at the National Security Agency whose defection to Russia this week gave the Communists a potent propaganda weapon.

But the facts of their visit appeared to fit the Mitchell-Martin case.



HAYS

The two defectors, at a press conference in Moscow Tuesday, said they visited an unnamed congressman in February, 1959, to tell him that the United States Government was not telling the truth in the C-130 plane incident.

They said they told the congressman the plane had not strayed off course; but was flown deliberately over Russian territory to test radar defenses.

Can't Identify Them

The Russians insisted that the plane simply crashed, but the United States produced tape recordings of radio conversations between Russian fighter pilots who intercepted the C-130 and shot it down.

Hays said he recalled that his two visitors identified themselves — and produced credentials — as employees of the Central Intelligence Agency rather than NSA.

He added that he was unable to identify Mitchell and Martin from newspaper photographs as the men who called on him.

"I never recall having seen these two faces. They told me they wanted their visit kept quiet because it might cost them their jobs," he said. "I think they mentioned Dulles (Allen Dulles, CIA director) in this regard."

Hays said he later told Thomas E. Morgan (D., Pa.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and several members of the Armed Services Committee about the visit.

"Nobody seemed to want to do anything about it," he recalled.

Asked if he didn't feel the two men were "out of line" as employees of a top-secret agency and that he had a responsibility to report the incident, Hays said:

"The spy department is the Administration's business, it's not our business."

Hays added that members of Congress would be cut off from sources of information if they reported such visits by government employees to their superiors.